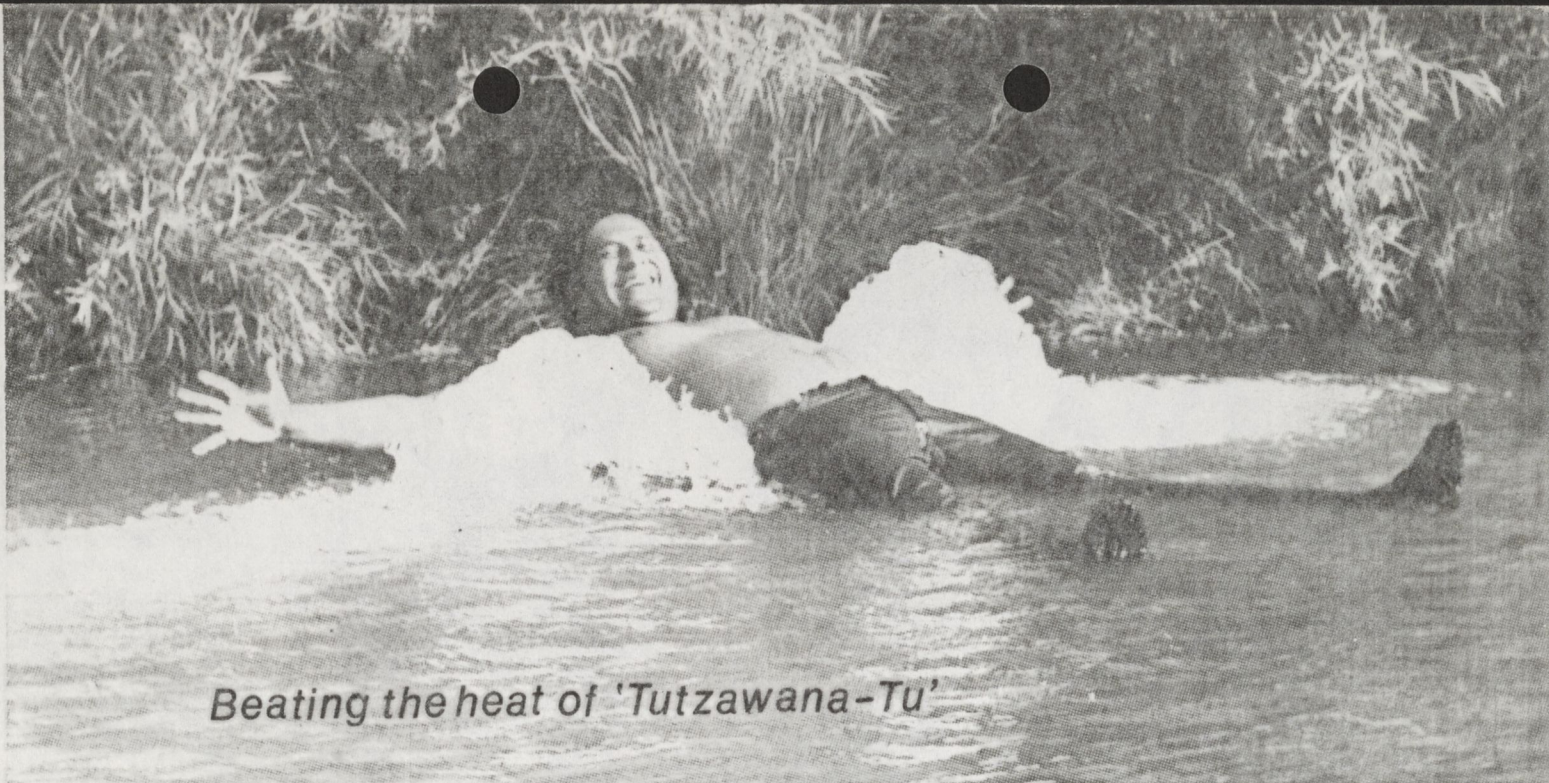




Beating the heat of 'Tutzawana-Tu'

Temperatures hit 107 and beyond and at Bishop Mike Jones cooled off spread-eagled over a gushing well-spring at Owens River. The 1978 "Tutzawana-Tu" (Paiute summer) is a scorcher.

What to do with Inyo's 'cute' Burros? A REPORT BUT NO SOLUTIONS, Page 13

Real Estate: Even the Arabs want a piece of West Bishop

AREA REALTORS ARE DOING A BULLISH BUSINESS AS OWNERS CASH IN ON INFLATED PRICES; ONLY THE LACK OF LAND KEEPS INYO FROM ENJOYING AN ECONOMIC BOOM IT HAS LONG HOPED FOR AND NEEDED.

IF, AS ONE AGENT IMPLIES, THERE MAY BE A SUMMER SLUMP IN THE SALE OF INYO'S EXPENSIVE NEW housing (*NEWS-LETTER*, July 31), there is no evidence of a downturn in other real estate sales - and potential buyers have a lot to choose from if they're willing to pay Inyo's inflated prices. What "they," the buyers, appear to want is best summed up in the revealing statement of one local agent this past week:

"Our office gets about six letters a week with requests for two-to-ten acres 'with a little, old house, for twenty or thirty thousand dollars.' Well, we have to write back and say there may be some acreage available - but with a house that should be torn down - and with a price around \$130,000. Some of them write back very belligerent letters.

"Outsiders don't realize the small percentage of land available here," continues Leo Baun of Bishop's Red Carpet Realtors.

And therein lies a key to the current bullish boom of Inyo real estate. For hard-working, promotional minded agents, there is no lack of either buyers - or of sellers who would like to take a fast profit on (a few) choice businesses or house-acreage offers.

The "outsiders" come here, see all that land, neat clean communities, mountains and streams. They fail to understand that only about 1.8 percent of it is privately owned and possibly buyable.

Even the Arabs, flush with oil wealth, have been eying Inyo's real estate. A few want business houses, especially motels; others want homes located away from the city. Another realtor quipped: "Maybe they want to be up here out of the way when the shooting starts."

"A number" - nobody
(See REAL ESTATE on Page 4)

The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

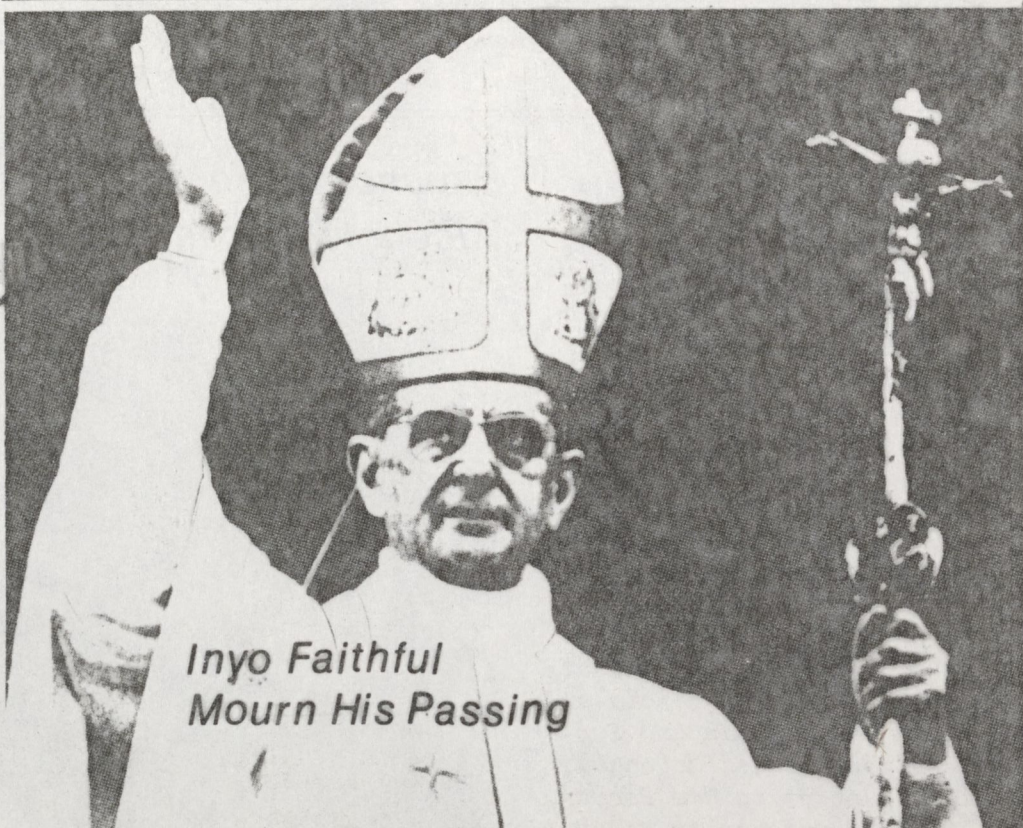
A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION!
Published weekly

FORUM Page
Next week

Week of
Aug. 7, 1978



Inyo Faithful Mourn His Passing

Parishioners in Inyo this week hold special masses following the death on Sunday of Pope Paul VI. More on that event, Page 2



After a superior court hearing Monday, DWP Attorney Ken Downey (left) departed the courtroom with a confident smile, but Judge Verne Summers made no ruling on whether Downey will get the change of venue he seeks in an injunction suit filed earlier by Inyo County to prevent installation of water meters. With Downey: Mike Hanford; DWP Engineer James Wickser; and Inyo Supervisor Johnny Johnson.

Requiem Mass at Inyo Parishes

IN INYO, THE PASSING OF PAUL VI EVOKES PRAYERS, FUNERAL RITUAL AND CANDID COMMENT; PAUL'S REIGN WAS MORE "RESPECTED" THAN LOVED IN AN ERA OF RELIGIOUS SELF-EXAMINATION

HOPING TO AVOID WHAT ONE CALLED "conflict with media coverage of the events in Rome," Inyo's Roman Catholic leadership early this week set Wednesday and Thursday evening schedules for Requiem Masses to mark the death, Sunday, of Pope Paul VI. And even as the "official" mourning period got underway here and elsewhere the controversies surrounding Paul's reign resurrected once more to revisit the proceedings. Paul, as leader of the world order of Catholics, had inherited church problems and schisms on his election to the Papacy in 1963 and in the 16 years of his service often had to deal with them alone and with little popular support. Among the unique burdens he had to deal with were the abortion issue, celibacy among the priesthood, and the ongoing aggiornamento, or modernization of a church that only with reluctance ever moved into any new century or idea.

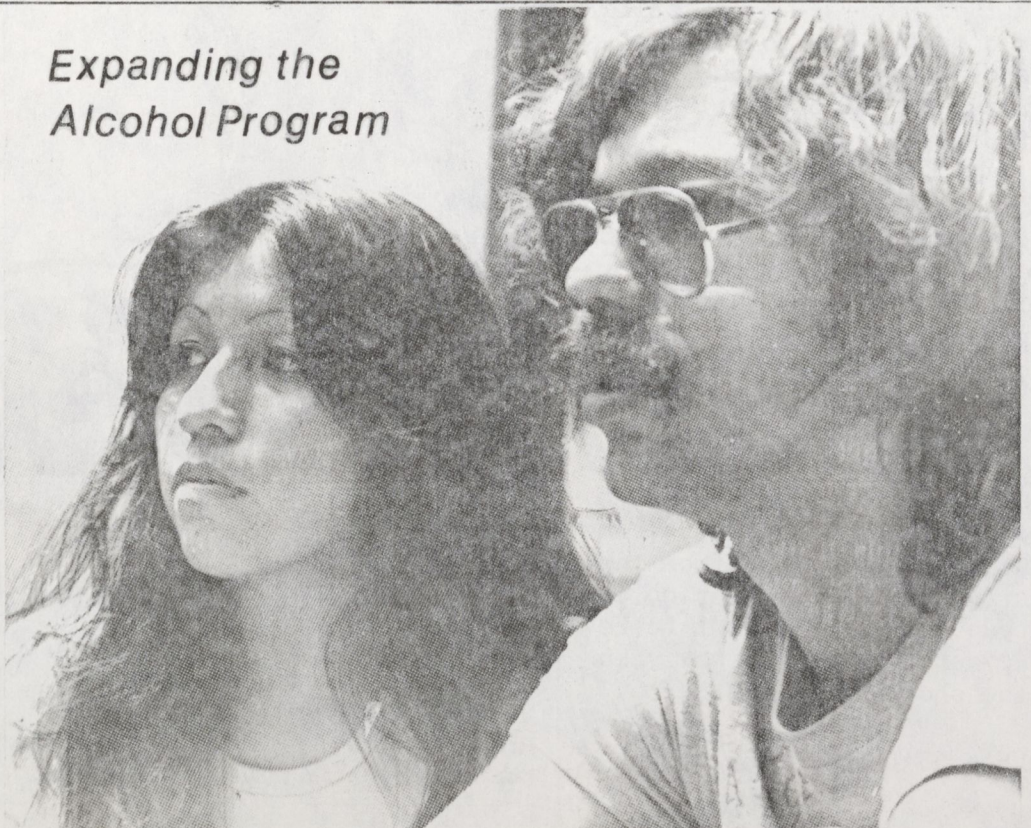
Had the larger issues of the church had impact on parishioners in Inyo County? Very definitely; many local Catholics had voiced support - or disagreement - with many of the Roman positions. And were they reactive to the demise of their spiritual leader? Said Bishop's Monsignor Gilbert Meyer: "In the sense that many people are concerned about the Pope and his replacement...and that we have something (services) for him, I had a number of calls." The monsignor said that at least one local parishioner, whom he did not identify, had "seen the Pope" two months ago and reported that even then he "looked bad."

As for the general public sentiment here about Pope Paul VI, Msgr. Meyer said "I would not call him 'popular.' The people respected him highly...He suffered a lot. He fell into a very difficult age in the Church. There were

(See POPE on Page 4)

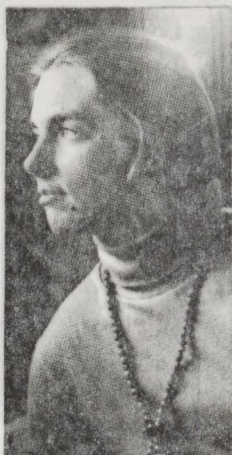
Expanding the Alcohol Program

"We'll be looking for clients, not waiting for them to find us," says New Horizons Alcohol Worker Greg Martin. Martin and Kathy David will direct the operations at the new "satellite office" of the expanded New Horizons program in Lone Pine. Meanwhile, NH has received state approval as Inyo's center for drunk drivers offered the alternative of treatment instead of jail. Two county officials, Judge Don Chapman and Supervisor Richard McDonald, lent support to New Horizons' efforts to establish the outreach project.



»»NOTES FROM B.K.««

HAPPY HOUR FLYING HIGH. Inyo's very own little airline, Sierra Pacific which was recently sold to Mountainwest Aviation, will soon inaugurate in-flight liquor service. Operations Manager Gary Hammon said the spirits will flow (and presumably soar) aboard the 50-passenger Convair 580's, SP's largest ships used almost exclusively on the LA-Mammoth flights. It's only an hour-and-a-half hop, but, knowing the L.A. ski crowd, that's much too long to wait for a drink. SP agrees. Maybe it's a good idea: The visitors will be in much better condition to face Mammoth's high prices if they've had a jolt or two.



BENNETT KESSLER

DOCTORS SHOULD BE THE LAST RESORT when it comes to health matters - such is the conclusion, a sagacious one, of a 15th century nobleman, Sir Francis Bacon, the predecessor of today's health-nature culture. Bacon who was one of the (editors?, translators?) of the King James Version of Judaeo-Christian holy writ, was also a mystic and a leading philosopher of his day. He wrote (among many other things) a piece called Of Regiment of Health, a piece recently reproduced for modern consumption in an issue of the *Philosophical Research Society Journal*. Says the *Journal* in its commentary on Lord Bacon's work: "While no one can endure forever, he can protect the span of life expectancy when he overcomes the delinquency of his character." Bacon himself tied his own good health to his personal attitudes of self-discipline and service to others. Okay, but how will it play in California, 1978? Very well it seems. The writer of the commentary in the *Journal* is Manly Palmer Hall, a contemporary philosopher who continues a busy schedule of writing and lecturing even though he is well past 80. Bacon himself lived far beyond his era's life expectancy of 55. Maybe the insurance companies should reduce their rates for philosophers and those who live, as Bacon and others suggest, "in moderation."

STILL TIME TO CATCH THE LAST OF THE Sierra Summer Festival at Mammoth Lakes. Top music and musicians, entertainment day and night, through Saturday. More on all that if you dial (714) 934-2712.

IT WAS THE "BEST SEASON EVER" at Mammoth Mountain. The skiing entrepreneurs aren't saying how much they pocketed over the snow-abundant season, but they admit that Mammoth hosted "more than a million skiers" from the first autumn snowfall through the early summer. But you can get a vague idea when you figure the cost of lift tickets - around \$10 - and multiply by a million. But that's still not an accurate picture, falling short as it does of the actual money spent by the visitors: food, lodging, car expense, etc. The snows continue to melt as the Mammoth establishment counts its wealth; not much open except a gondola ride gliding high over a few patches of snow. But the summer crowd is there and though these spend less than the skiers, it keeps the cash flowing. The remainder of the Mammoth Mountain crew is working on "maintenance and slope grooming" and waiting for the new season.

THE "HIP" SKI PURISTS AT MAMMOTH don't think much of the summer crowd, campers, fishermen, kids, etc., and view these as a necessary evil - something to be dealt with, or escaped - until "the real season" comes along. It's an attitude that Mammoth's promoters would like to discourage since visitors have often run into rudeness and disinterest that makes some of them feel unwelcome.

DINING OUT OVER THE WEEKEND: Sheriff Floyd Barton, Ms. Barton and friends, at the outdoor dining room at Paradise. Also Greg James, the DA's man.

A FINAL DECISION DUE "IN A WEEK OR SO" on the matter of accepting a new doctor on the Southern Inyo Hospital staff. She is Dr. Sabiha A. Kahn, formerly from India; studied medicine in England and New York. Dr. Kahn, accompanied by her husband and two children, once spent a three-week vacation in the Eastern Sierra, saw an advertisement for a doctor, and came for an interview. A lot of other doctors had responded to the advertisement, but none other than Dr. Kahn had followed through. No surprise, said Administrator Merlyn Finney, "when you consider that there are 12 towns of 12,000 people competing for every doctor."

A SAGE ONCE SAID THAT imitation is the greatest compliment. But he didn't say anything about Xerox reproduction. We heard from a usually reliable source that an office in the southern part of the county has a subscription to our modest weekly and every week runs off several copies for friends. We appreciate such enthusiastic readership, but, really, folks, we'll go under fast if everybody does that!

WE DID AN ITEM NOT LONG AGO ON THE NEW CALtrans rest stop at Coso Junction, and it brought forth some interesting historical notes on the area from two sources, Ms. Warren Fansler of Bishop and Ms. Marjorie Gill. We'll cover it in later editions, space allowing.

NO LETTERS THIS WEEK, SO....NO "FORUM" page. Can't imagine a week in which somebody isn't outraged about something.

JOHN SNYDER, MENTIONED ELSEWHERE HEREABOUTS, has resigned from the county - and as president of the employees association. Somebody said he'd "gone to Hawaii" when he failed to show for this week's meeting of the association. Darlene Landis, association V-P, will step in as president.

THE E.R.A ISSUE IS OUT OF COMMITTEE and up for a rehashing before a reluctant congress. What are the prospects for passage? Nobody seems to know at this time. If it ever gets past the house, then the senate will have to work it over. A long road ahead for the feminists. For many, that's not good news.

...BUT, MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS, every day...

- Sincerely,

BK

POPE, Continued

many ideas and opinions opening up. He stayed with the fundamentals against almost impossible odds. Some have said he was weak, but I think he was a very strong Pope."

Among the chief controversies: abortion and birth control.

Somewhere between mindless religion and heartless science is the suspected existence of a harmonious balance. Paul, it is believed generally, failed to find it and the laboratory and social scientists fought him mercilessly. And thousands of Catholics otherwise loyal accepted either openly or secretly the practices of both that science had opened up to a world growing rapidly out-of-control in population.



PAUL VI
1965 U.S. visit

"It was all much debated," said Msgr. Meyer. He stayed firm with the natural law; he defended the church teaching

and was open, but never gave in without reason."

Another issue that gnawed at the very vitals of Catholicism was that of celibacy. In that, the Pope was equally intransigent and outspoken. "Some have thought that once the Pope was out of power, that would change," said the local leader. "It's a strong issue. The majority of the committee studying it think it's time to break that down. Personally, I think celibacy is a high virtue, a wonderful thing for a priest who is supposed to be working for Christ to keep it...But under all circumstances, I can't say."

Msgr. Meyer had planned a special mass for his parish for Wednesday evening. At Lone Pine another mass is scheduled at Santa Rosa Church for Thursday evening, led by Father Henry Grupa.

As the new week opened, no one in the Inyo church hierarchy seemed to know immediately just how many Roman Catholics live in the area. Meyer estimated about 500 near Bishop. No other estimates were available. In the world there are nearly 700,000,000.

The extent of local interest in proceedings at Rome for the next several days was reflected in the church's wish to set mass schedules that would avoid conflict with television coverage. The Church historically has not been without a great deal of inner politicking, and the selection of the new Pope - particularly in view of the continuing conservative-liberal conflict - will be as closely watched here as elsewhere.

Even L.A. Cardinal Timothy Manning had received "a mention" as a possible successor, but the suggestion was received, and probably made, in the same sense as those nominations of "favorite son" presidential candidates with no one seriously believing for a minute that it might happen. Manning, meanwhile, left the diocese for Italy where he will attend the last rites for the Pontiff and participate in the selection of a successor.

REAL ESTATE, Continued

seems to know just how many - Arabs have been interested in property offerings here. One Arab family from Beverly Hills recently looked over a house in West Bishop. "They came dressed in western clothing," said one dealer. "I haven't heard any more from them."

Realtors think there would be even a greater sales boom if more land were available - just the condition that a lot of the county's "slow-growth, if any" proponents are trying by all means to avoid.

As always, L.A.'s Department of Water and Power is accused of holding up growth, or, depending on the side you're on, blessed for keeping Inyo under tight land control. Such a situation means that as more southland money is available, and more buyers want to escape the vicissitudes of urban life, land and property values go up and "the established" people gain further control since they hold the property and set the price.

Many business firms are changing hands, or have been listed for sale. Among these: the Economy Motors property; La Pinata Restaurant, the Embers, the Fireside & Lighting firm; Ben's Broasted Chicken, the Cozy Cafe, and the popular Bota Bag restaurant - these among others at Bishop and Lone Pine. The realtor's say the owners are not selling out for the lack of business; it was an exceptional winter season, and perhaps a record summer season. "The owners sometimes just get tired of their businesses, and they can get a good profit from investors," says one agent. But smaller shops do have their problems, and they tend to have more turnover in ownership.

One spot popular for years at Bishop is on the block, not without some controversy - again, the DWP. The Beacon Tavern, formerly an American Legion post - is up for grabs, but DWP owns the land under it. In spite of the fact of a limited land lease (five years), some buyers are interested, says realty agent Henry Gerfen. It is believed that DWP would like to see it removed; and adjoin the property, which is fed by a well, to a nearby hay field. Some churches and a few individuals have shown interest in the deal, but shy away from DWP's lease; they may not be in business five years from now unless they toed DWP's hard line.

In some areas there is a lack of listings. People are watching the market. Dorothy Bonnefin of Lone Pine's Century 21 real estate office, says she has plenty of buyers - "people who want to get away from it all," many of them willing to pay whatever it takes to get them into practically away-from-the-city setting. Bonnefin, too, cites the DWP for the lack of marketable property.

Why are some of the businesses selling? Bota Bag Owner Sam Dean (who also owns a plumbing firm) says he had "a lessee running it. He skipped out, so it was operate it ourselves or sell it." The possible new buyer: Tokiwa's Restaurant at Big Pine. Tokiwa's plan to convert the Bota Bag to meet an increasing demand for oriental food.

Sale of a business provides capital for other investment. The E.L. Regers (Cozy Cafe) are looking into a mining deal after three years of operating the "Cozy."

There are many reasons for the boom, but most boil down to the original one: Cash. There is plenty of it right now, and plenty of investors eager to escape the city's problems - perhaps to take on some of Inyo's, unknowingly.

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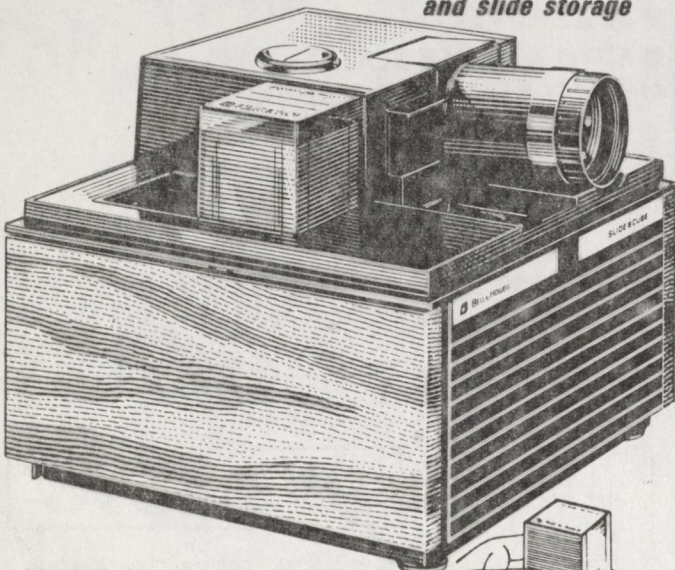
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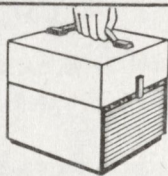
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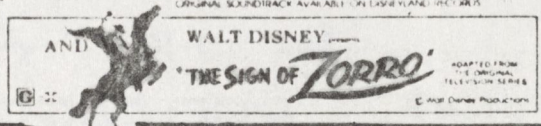
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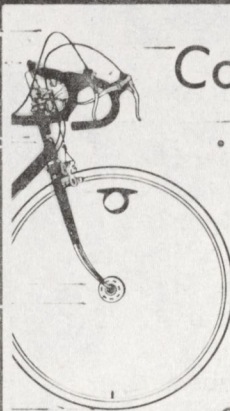
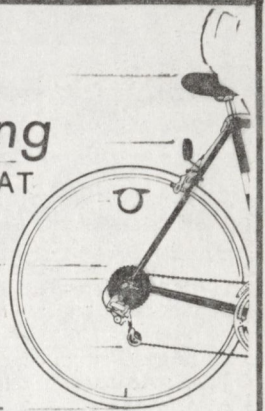
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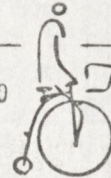
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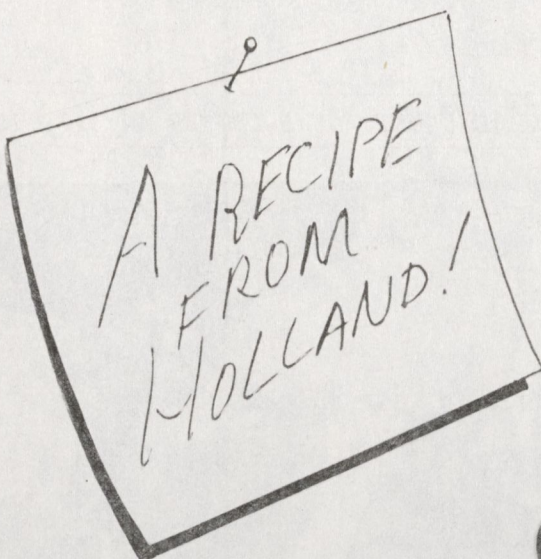
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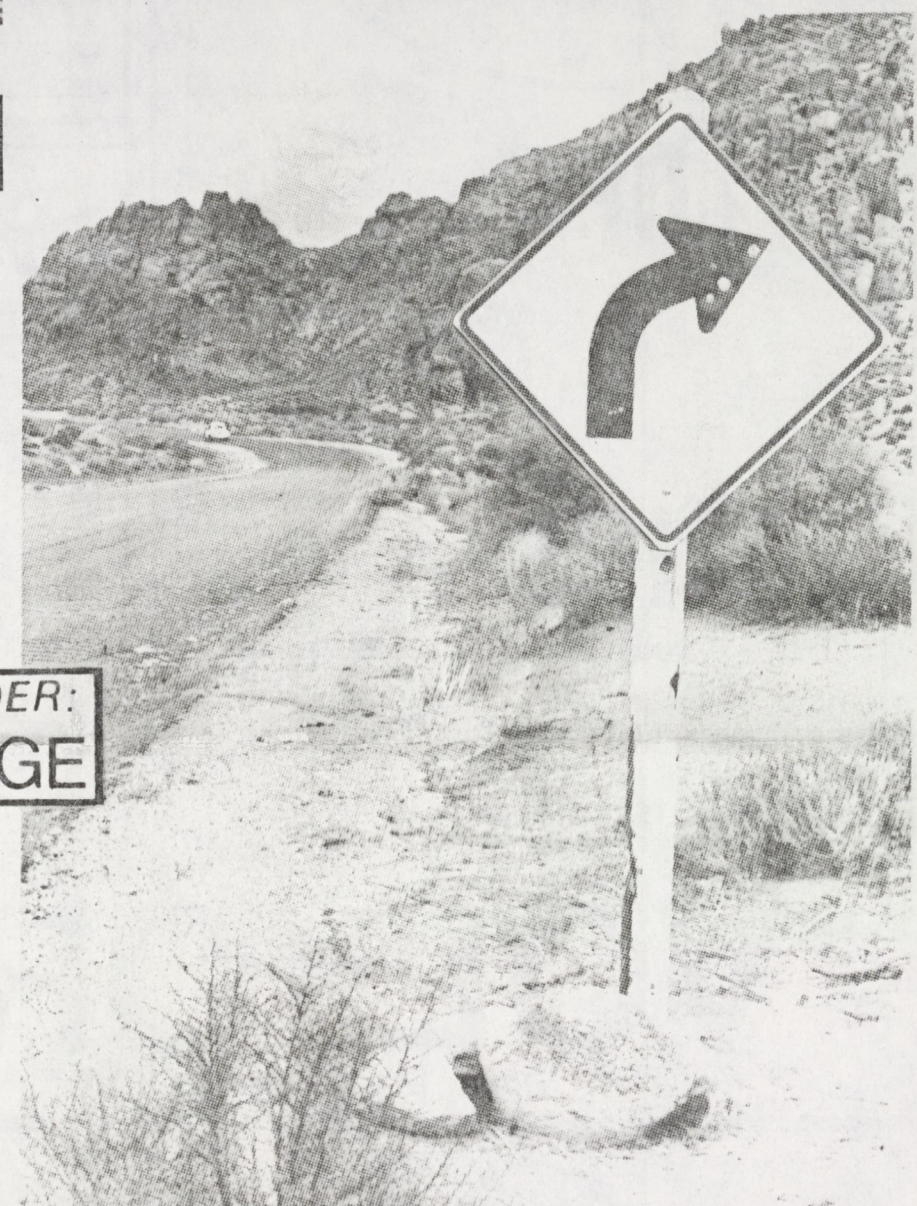
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Signs of the (Somewhat Confusing) Times

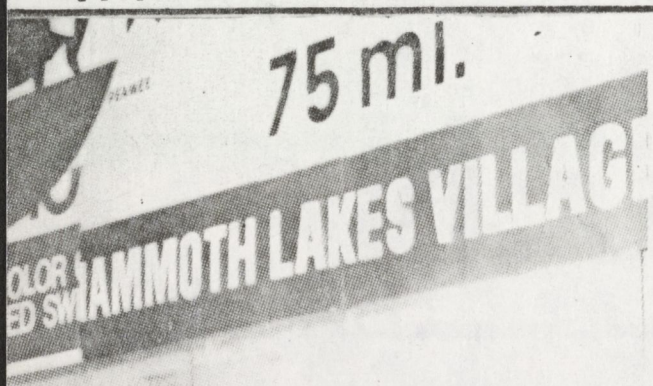
In a world already wearily complex, there seems always to be some annoying new contradiction; as on this Highway 395 service station...



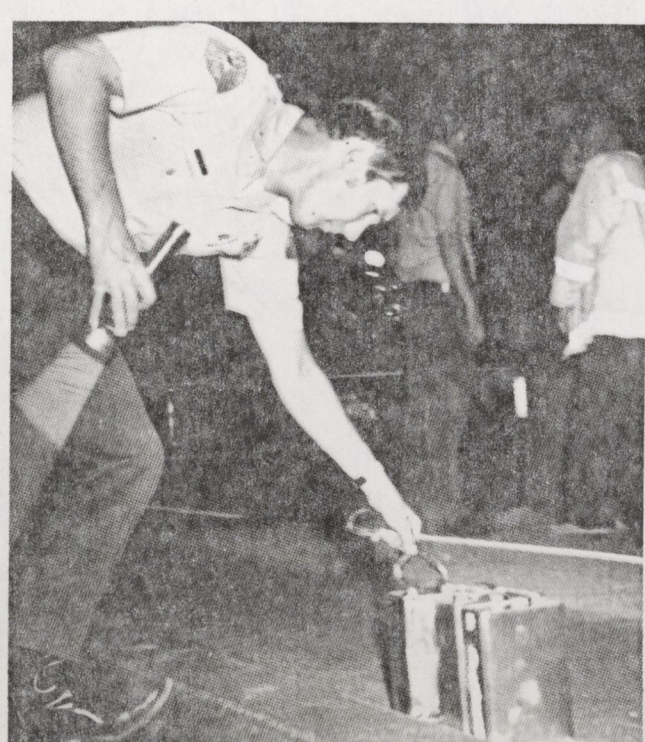
...and if there were not enough contradictions, NEWS-LETTER's motoring photographer had to find - or create - still another in this picture of an Alabama Hills curve which clearly turns northward, while a sign indicates a turn southward- directly into the hard rocks. But in fact, Inyo's road department has not resigned its sense of direction; a darkroom trick of reversing a negative and then superimposing a reversed print over the proper original creates this false but convincing illusion.



NEWS-LETTER'S VIEWFINDER: VALLEY FOTOPAGE



Page 8 INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER Aug. 7, 1978



And another sign very nearly burned down. No one seemed quite sure why an arsonist wanted to set fire to "Andersen's Pea Soup" billboard. An Inyo deputy, Ken Coombs, carefully collected evidence: three gallon cans that had contained white gas.

NEWS-LETTER'S VIEWFINDER: VALLEY FOTOPAGE

August's Dog Days (and Nights)

Page 9
Aug. 7, 1978

As the late-summer sun began last week to bear seriously down upon the sweltering county, it silhouetted these Caltrans workers regrettably engaged in removing several stately old shade trees that for years greeted visitors to the vintage Winnetum Hotel. Age



and drought had taken a heavy toll and the hollow, rotted trees posed a serious hazard. Heat of another kind - the ongoing and still unresolved issue of county cars (for animal control officers and others) - provoked this look of distaste and pique from Supervisor Chairman Richard McDonald. Why the concern? -The county's licensing and leash problems seemed nearly beyond managing, and pet owners still allowed their dogs to run loose late at night fully aware that the



officers could do nothing about it, and confident that Fido's mess would be somebody else's problem...And other "hot" issues were developing; for a story on the "Beacon," see the real estate report in this issue.

News Briefs

EDGY TEMPER AT A SUPERVISORS' MEETING; AN 8.5% INCREASE IN ELECTRIC POWER RATES IS "GOOD NEWS" FROM DWP; THE PUBLIC DEFENDER DEFENDS HIS POSITION; AND "TUTZAWANA-TU" HARD TO FIND.

ONCE AGAIN, THE REALLY HOT ISSUE was the use of the county's cars, and before it was over with practically everybody involved - the supervisors, the probation officer - had either been insulted or had done a little insulting of their own. It ended, more or less, with the probation officer, John Lee, striding up to the dais in the supervisors' boardroom and dropping the keys to his own county vehicle on the desk before Supervisor Chairman Richard McDonald.

The brouhaha started when Probation Officer Lee told the board he wants "the same treatment" as the sheriff and district attorney: to be allowed county cars for "at discretion" use of the vehicles. In support of the request he brought in his office's car-use logs, one of them recorded quite literally to the minute. But such detailed accounting brought out the first jab - this from Chairman McDonald: With what appeared to be a wry sarcasm, McDonald said, "If I stretched it, I could read some sarcasm into this; it's a sham." Supervisor Herb London joined in. "It's a farce," he remarked, raising Lee's ire. "Look," said Lee, "I classify probation along with the sheriff's office and the district attorney. We have picked away at probation. We either get them or we don't!" Quickly he apologized for the retort: "But the word 'sham' tripped me up. My department is not a sham."

McDonald came back again. "I didn't say that. The sheet is a sham when you break it up in increments of one minute." Lee got up, pulled a set of keys from a pocket, placed them in front of McDonald, and said he was "tired" of fooling with it. The action netted two "no" votes - from McDonald and London - when the supervisors finally decided to allow Lee to continue with full use of the county's vehicles "temporarily for a few more months." Then London moved to allow permanent 24-hour car assignment to the rabies control officer, but that was voted down. A picture of the confrontation appears on Page 9.

IN NOVEMBER, CALIFORNIANS WILL DETERMINE just how far - and where - cigaret smokers will be allowed to offend the sometimes overly-touchy non-smokers. The anti-tobacco groups have managed to acquire enough signatures for a ballot initiative claiming that "Smoking in enclosed areas is detrimental to non-smokers." With some exceptions the proposed restrictions would prohibit smoking in "enclosed" public places, places of employment, education and health facilities. To avoid abacklash from the smokers, the initiative thoughtfully provides a clause against "employment discrimination" determined by smoking or non-smoking status.

A PUBLIC DEFENDER BY ANY OTHER NAME...remains a public defender, or so, in effect, claims a good sized part of Inyo's legal community in its ongoing argument against the county appointment of a young attorney, Dean Stout, who only last December passed his bar examination. Some lawyers felt so strongly about

Stout's appointment, that one at least has taken the matter to court, basing his case on a California law saying a public defender must have at least a year's experience before he may rightfully fulfill the duties of the office. But the county officials - and Stout - maintain that the law - or at least the letter of the law - is irrelevant in the matter; Stout is not "really" a public defender, they say. "He performs public defender-like services by contract." Contract? "Yes," avers Stout. "I am an independent contractor, and the state legislature has no right to interfere." Meanwhile, the issue has brought forth some other questions about the supervisors' appointment: Why did they overlook an alternative which in fact would have provided the county with two public defenders at the same price and avoid perhaps the mounting legal entanglements of the issue. Stout explains it like this: "My bid was not the lowest. But it has been recognized that I would have to 'farm out' some of the work, amounting to at least \$300 a month. On face value my bid appears to be lower, but there's more to it." It now comes to light that another attorney, Mike Ingalls, had sought the appointment and his offer included an arrangement with Stout. Why did the supervisors opt for Stout alone instead of the clearly profitable package of Ingalls-Stout? The new public defender, who may now have to prove his case in court, said he doesn't know.

IT APPEARED TO BE A SIMPLE QUESTION FOR Inyo County's librarian Jay Ector, the custodian for the bulk of Inyo's recorded knowledge. The same question had been asked of Charles Irwin, director of the museum facilities. Neither could determine immediately its answer even though the county appeared to be well-populated by those who should know: "What," they had been asked by a reporter, "is the Paiute Indian word for 'summer' or 'hot weather'?" But it turned out that surprisingly few of the county's Indian community know even the more simple Paiute words or their meanings. Finally, Ector found Independence's Pearl Williams who knew a friend, "one of the Old Ones," who speaks Paiute. But neither could spell "Tutzawana-Tu," which is about the best that Ector, finally and happily, could turn up with.

THE DWP'S ROSEY AND PERHAPS EUPHEMISTIC approach to what amounts to a drastic - and highly questionable - increase in the cost of its electrical power appeared last week in the new edition of its Water and Power Associates newsletter. The DWP sees it as "good news to customers." Says Water and Power Associates Editor Bob Lee: "Good news to customers is the budget provision to lower a previously-considered 10% increase in basic electric rates to 8.5%." The DWP customers here and in Los Angeles were at least cheered to know that DWP had no really bad news. The "good news" came in the newsletter's report on DWP's new budget, a whopping billion-plus dollars that Lee cheerfully says "reflects amazing personnel reductions," a fact not too happily received by L.A.'s thousands

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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

of unemployed who would like a piece of DWP's big-money action. Not overlooked in the new budget, but unreported in the W&PA report: the substantial wage and expense-account increases for a number of DWP hierarchical fat cats, a number of whom already earn more than most of L.A.'s city officials.

EACH YEAR, the Owens Valley sends to L.A. (albeit reluctantly) billions of gallons of valley water. It turns out now that the majority of Angelenos have no idea where their water comes from - information better left unpublicized, in the view of many of those responsible for getting it there, by theft or otherwise. But for the articulate few who care, an updated water resources exhibit, co-sponsored by long-time bedfellows MWD and DWP, awaits them at the California Museum of Science and Industry in L.A. Predictably, the exhibit, a costly affair, stresses water conservation.

NOT MUCH CHANCE OF NATIONAL OR STATEWIDE LABOR troubles spreading to Inyo County. That's the view of local managers of Safeway Stores two-outlet operation here. In northern California, members of the tough Teamsters Union have struck warehouse operations, and there remains a possibility that Safeway Stores' Retail clerk's union may strike; their contract ran out on July 31, but they got an extension until August 16. Meanwhile, negotiations continue.

FREE ENTERPRISE? "I don't think there is anything cheaper or better," affirmed the county's administrator John K. Smith - and such popular philosophy may go far toward retaining, even at a high cost, southern Inyo's single ambulance service. Tri-County Ambulance (with branch offices in several other communities), which is based locally at Lone Pine, has served notice on the county it may no longer be able to survive here without additional county subsidy. The Tri-County management wants something over \$1000 a month more from the county, warning that its service may end without it. But the supervisors, trapped between Proposition 13 restrictions and severe need, remain reluctant to fork out more money. The ambulance service had been low bidder in a county ambulance contract three years ago, but managers claim that business has been a struggle ever since. Supervisor Wilma Muth said she'd like to see the Southern Inyo Hospital District take over ambulance services. At this time, however, Southern Inyo Hospital District has money problems of its own and may be neither willing nor able to operate an ambulance company. Smith argues, with more or less convincing conviction, that perhaps a subsidy, like it or not, may be best for the county's ambulance needs. The supervisors will look further into Tri-County's needs at a public hearing scheduled "soon" in southern Inyo.

JOHN SNYDER, a long-time county road department worker whose beard, floppy hat and full-time companion dog had more than once brought down the wrath of the county's more conservative supervisors, has resigned both his county job and also his post as president of the Inyo County Employees Association. As road worker Snyder's controversial attire and image were offset by his work performance - and after his



CONTROVERSIAL DEFENDER STOUT

Inyo could have had a two-for-one deal.

election to the association presidency most officials came to like his understated, soft-sell approach to employee negotiations. Snyder now goes to work for a former county official who defended him as "one of the best workers in the county" when he first came under supervisory fire: Roger Glidden, a former assistant department head who owns a Bishop surveying firm. Snyder will now work on Glidden's surveying crews.

MORE THAN HALF A MILLION "GREEN" GOLDEN TROUT eggs, taken from Inyo's Cottonwood Lakes and brought to the Mt. Whitney Hatchery near Independence, are expected to produce "about 80%" in successful hatching. By next month the fish from the eggs will be airlifted over the high country and dropped into remote mountain lakes. A press release from the Department of Fish and Game reports that "egg-taking operations took much longer than usual because of high, cold water flows between the lakes which slowed down the spawning process." It was the 60th year of the Golden Trout spawning program.

THE SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATES TIED IN THE JUNE election were to appear in court this week, each claiming he should be the candidate to oppose Incumbent Wilma Muth in the November run-off. Moe Jacobson first took the issue to court claiming that a man voted in the third district, but lived in another district. His opponent Roger Glidden answered with the claim that no fewer than four of his supporters should have voted in the third district but didn't. The courts will decide which if either is correct to break their tie. If the tie is not resolved, both will face Muth in an election in which only a plurality is needed to win, a situation that appears to be a shoo-in for Muth.

A NEW GRAND JURY THIS WEEK: County Clerk Rita Bromley was to draw 19 names from 30 names in a jury wheel, and the selectees were to be sworn in by Superior Court Judge Verne Summers. They will serve for one year.

ONCE AGAIN, BISHOP'S CONTROVERSIAL MOVING AND storage man, Glenn Brooks, was back in court. It was his second appearance in recent weeks. In a complex issue, Allen Lake of Bishop says he had rented a house from Brooks only to find that Brooks had already rented the house to someone else; that they had been evicted

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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

so that Brooks could rent the house to him, and that they had already paid six months' rent on the place. According to Lake, Brooks told Skip and Bonnie Lundgren that he would move them, free of charge, to another house owned by Brooks' mother at Banning, California. Upon arrival there, however, Brooks allegedly demanded \$1400 in moving charges. The Lundgrens are suing him for \$1400, six months' rent, and \$10,000 in punitive damages. Lake said "Brooks harassed us when we lived there. He was never happy with anything." Meanwhile, Brooks was having other problems: His scheduled appearance in a court at Fresno on a change of venue from Inyo County. There he will answer to charges filed against him in his controversial practice as a contractor operating without a license. Other cases included complaints about his charges for other disputed moving contracts. In the Lundgren case, Judge Harry Roberts took the case under submission and no ruling had been made as the new week began.

AS THE NEW WEEK GOT UNDERWAY, THE SUPERVISORS found themselves caught up in what amounted to an angry tilt with the sheriff. The supervisors were uncomfortably aware of the need for more men to staff the manpower-weak sheriff's force - but a "hiring freeze" they voted many weeks back provided a self-imposed limitation. The sheriff, Floyd Barton, had come before the board to get an okay for an examination that would promote one of his men to sergeant which in turn would leave a gap in the rank and file. Under the hiring freeze the sheriff had to request supervisory "permission," a fact galling to him and his office which, under his leadership, otherwise maintains a high degree of independence.

"All I asked for was to give an exam for sergeant ... Why do I need permission!?", Barton demanded of the board. Tempers quickly flared as the hiring freeze issue arose side-by-side with even the barest suggestion of additional employees. They saw the potential vacancy as a kind of creation of a new position. "We will have a new position," flatly stated the county administrator.

"I don't agree," countered the sheriff. "I don't care whether you agree or not," shot back the administrator.

The sheriff forcefully snatched at the last word in the matter, fully aware that the supervisors knew as well as he the manpower situation in Inyo's sheriff's department. "I don't care either," he said firmly. "Damn it, I can't afford to be down any more men. We need those people on the street!"

After that, the supervisors floundered, looking for alternatives, mostly grasping at straws not there. Finally, the Independence supervisor, Johnny Johnson, made a motion allowing the sheriff's examination for sergeant. It cooled the air and the supervisors passed the issue unanimously as if happy to get rid of it.

AND SUPERVISOR HERBERT LONDON FOUND OTHER THAN manpower problems generated by the passage of Proposition 13. "Proposition 13," he said, "gives us a clear direction. It mandates that all costs should be covered." With some reluctance and the expectation of increased complaints (mostly from senior citizens), the supervisors raised by 50 cents per day the campground fees in Inyo's remote Tecopa area, a favorite spot of many older people. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Angelo expected problems. "Nerves are running thin over there," he warned darkly.

PREVIOUSLY REBUFFED ON A NUMBER OF REQUESTS, the county librarian, Jay Ector, found unexpectedly smooth sailing in his appearance before the board this week. The supervisors gave him their authorization, if not their blessing, to sign for three library programs that will commit the county's participation: an inter-library (book) loan program; universal borrowing program; and the equal access program.

AND AS THE WEEK'S BOARD MEETING PROCEEDED, there was still no action on a pending cable television transfer that the county must okay. The board is awaiting "written assurance" that Bishop's Roy Mayhugh will be able to get a necessary bank or small business loan to cover his purchase of a Big Line cable system. Outside the supervisors' meeting, however, there circulated reports that the sale of Community

Cablevision had run aground on a legal snag. It was reported that a former partner in the firm may be putting a lien on the sale. It was unclear either to the board or to other observers whether the new development might preclude supervisory action.

THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT wants to tap the reservoir of boiling, steamy energy lying abundantly beneath the desert area of Coso Hot Springs. But

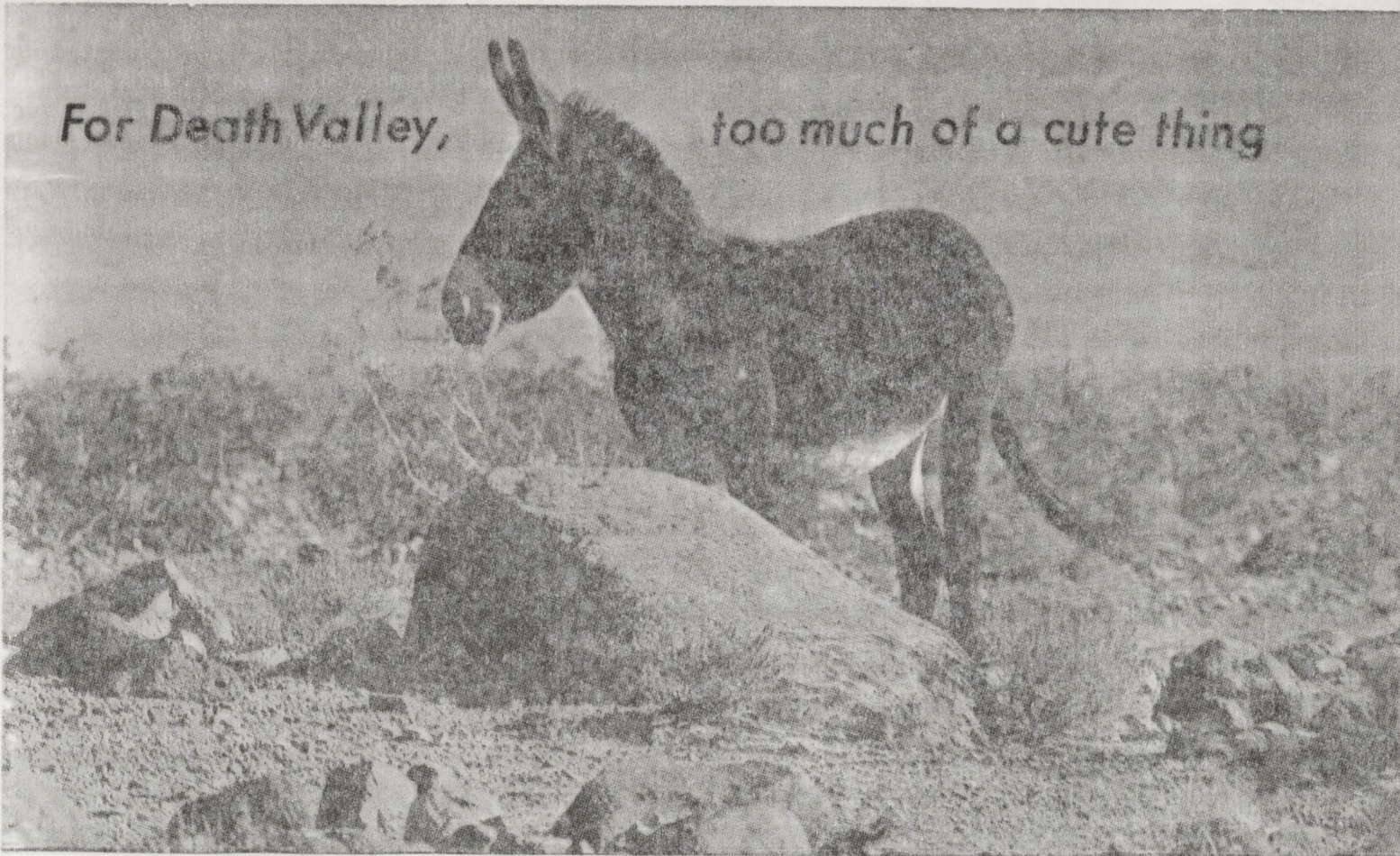
not everyone is as eager as the energy department, the Bureau of Land Management and others to see the resource developed. The fate of the geothermal windfall will be determined in part at a two-day geothermal workshop at Lone Pine Town Hall August 17 and 18. Opponents to the development proposal will have their say then. Among these: some of the county's Indian organizations which see in Coso's hot waters an ancient spiritual and healing ground.



ADMINISTRATOR SMITH AND SUPERVISOR JOHNSON
...bound by their own hiring freeze, but aware of a need

The Wild Burros

ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEM



Clearly, it is a problem that to Inyo's 49'ers (the original ones) would seem asinine, this matter of too many burros. In their day, and unfortunately in ours, very few people gave a great deal of thought to "ecosystems," their significance or lack of it, particularly if the ecosystem was so remotely situated as to defy very much intrusion or interest by people. When the pioneers "used up" a burro they usually set it free rarely seeing in it even enough importance to justify the waste of a bullet.

Burros were seen as food neither by man nor beast. And so, over the years, they multiplied and in many cases were even protected.

His ability to survive, either by sheer toughness, or so it now seems, by an appealing charisma, is phenomenal. Even now in Death Valley where the estimated range capacity is about 200, he numbers seven times that and grows fat. The problem is that he does so at the expense of practically every other animal and plant out there.

The burro has been called many things and in fact is many things: cantakerous, hard-working, strong, dumb, gentle, funny, ornery, lovable - and cute. It is the latter appellation which, more than anything else, now quite literally saves his hide. Like the Tule Elk he is protected in the attitudes of people who, having to deal with him only in abstract or from afar, think that killing him is a crime only slightly worse than, say, killing a fellow bleeding heart.

The burro is shockingly destructive once his numbers get out of hand. He survives as scores of other species starve or parch for lack of water in his tracks. Still, 'most everybody wants to see him survive. There are those who in pondering the condition and state of the human mind think that burros are also loved because of a subconscious association with the animal that carried the Christ to Jerusalem. As a symbol of strength/humbleness he is as covered with sentiment as with the dust of his desert home. He is unthinkably unkillable.

Sentiment has so directed Americans' attitudes and actions in the matter of the donkey that he wanders in every western state safe

and free, numbering up to 8000. Where he has roamed, desert flora vanishes, water holes dry up or turn to quagmires no longer drinkable.

A United States National Parks resources specialist, Peter Sanchez, takes a hard line with the burros. He thinks most of them should be shot.

A couple of years ago the park service thought they might be able to rid the wastelands of them by giving them away "to people who would care for them properly" as pets. A few - a very few - people volunteered to take one of the park service adoptees, but most found out later the more negative character traits of the otherwise cute animal. They eat a lot, kick a lot, bray a lot, and sometimes bite; kids fall off of them. In any case, the adoption program was one of the federal ideas that didn't work.

The suggestion that the herds be reduced via rifle has brought down - once again - the outcry of anti-killing groups. Their organized opposition, backed by compelling photos of the gentle beast, is appealingly convincing. And, as in the case of the Tule Elk, the government charged with responsibility of the burros is caught in the crossfire.

Hoping to bring some facts - as opposed to emotionalism - to the case, the park service is working on an environmental impact report that may reveal the burros' true condition both as a prized national pet and as a menace to other species.

Emotionalism is the problem. "People think the animals are cute...and they are,"

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BURROS, Continued

says Sanchez, "but whether they are cute or not doesn't alter the environmental facts. It is emotion, there's no question about that. But what the people don't realize is that it's an overpopulation problem that the animals can't solve."

The burros have no "natural" enemies to reduce their herds. In the case of the burro, not even man is any real danger - obviously. Even if he made good dog-food, he'd probably be considered too hard to catch to be profitable.

"We're in a Catch 22 situation," says Sanchez. "If we get rid of the animals ahead of time, we're doing something inhumane, but if we don't do something, the range will deteriorate and there will be deaths by starvation."

The conservation groups themselves are divided on the burro issue. The U.S. Humane Society, the American Horse Protection Association, and the Committee to Save the Grand Canyon Burros (a problem there, too), strongly oppose people who talk like Sanchez. But favoring the shooting approach are the Sierra Club and the National Parks and Conservation Association. The Death Valley 49'ers (the contemporary ones) have passed a resolution leaving no doubt about where they stand: "...reduction of the feral burros be vigorously pursued by whatever effective means are available, until their threat to irreplaceable sites and to native flora and fauna is overcome."

As in the case of the Tule Elk, there has been the suggestion that the excess burros be airlifted out of the valley and Grand Canyon. The cost: about \$1400 per animal. But airlifting has yet to prove an effective means of controlling even the Tule Elk.

Meanwhile, the burros are slowly and inevitably eating up Death Valley. A mature animal eats about 10 pounds of forage a day; in all, about eight tons per day, or an estimated 5.3 million pounds of vegetation a year. In Death Valley nothing grows that fast - except burros.

In the EIR matter, the public, happy, tearful or angry depending on personal prejudices, will argue its several views at public hearings. Like in the Tule Elk fight.

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VETERANS OFFICER DOWN, BUT FAR FROM OUT.

Even before they got him into the Independence rescue truck, Veterans Service Officer Bill Hastings was confidently smiling. The ex-Marine was stricken outside the courthouse this week with a diabetic reaction. Rushed to the hospital at Lone Pine he was briefly treated and released and was driven back to Independence by a doctor. From there he returned safely home to Bishop.

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